

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LISBON
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AMEMBASSY OSLO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, NATO, DA
SUBJ: RASH OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN DENMARK

SUMMARY: ANTI-NATO, ANTI-NEUTRON BOMB FEELINGS AMONG SOME
DANES MANIFESTED THEMSELVES APRIL 10 IN THE FORM OF DEMON-
STRATIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AT AALBORG UNIVER-
SITY. FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PLANNED FOR APRIL 18 TO
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PROTEST THE NATO NPG MEETING IN FREDERIKSHAVN, BUT DANISH
OFFICIALS ASSURE US THAT ALL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WILL BE
TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

1. AS EASILY AND AS PEACEFULLY AS IT BEGAN, A SIT-IN AT THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BY 70 MEMBERS OF THE DANISH COMMUNIST
YOUTH ENDED APRIL 10 AFTER AN HOUR. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS,

THE GROUP HAD ASSEMBLED TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB AND THE UPCOMING NATO NPG MEETING IN FREDERIKSHAVN. ENCOUNTERING NO RESISTANCE, THE GROUP ENTERED THE MINISTRY BUILDING AND MADE ITS WAY TO DEFENSE MINISTER POUL SOGAARD'S OFFICE. SOGAARD WAS OUT, BUT THE GROUP CONTENTED ITSELF WITH PASTING PROTEST POSTERS ON THE WINDOWS AND TALKING TO MEMBERS OF SOGAARD'S STAFF. AFTER AN HOUR, THE POSTERS WERE REMOVED AND THE GROUP DISPERSED. SOGAARD'S STAFF MEMBERS ARE QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE INCIDENT ENDED "WITH CORDIALITY ON BOTH SIDES". COMMENTING LATER ON THE SIT-IN, SOGAARD IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IF NOTHING ELSE, ONE RESULT OF THE SIT-IN WAS TO SHOW HOW EASILY TERRORISTS COULD TAKE OVER THE MINISTRY. HE INDICATED THAT INCREASED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN.

2. COINCIDENT WITH THE MOD SIT-IN WAS A DEMONSTRATION BY STUDENTS AT AALBORG UNIVERSITY AGAINST THE MEETING BEING HELD THERE BY MEMBERS OF NATO'S ADVISORY GROUP FOR AEROSPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AGARD). HEADLINED "STUDENTS THROW MERCHANTS OF WAR OUT", TODAY'S (APRIL 12) SENSATIONALIST PRESS REPORTS THAT THE STUDENT PROTEST SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED TO CLOSE DOWN THE MEETING. ACCORDING TO ALL PRESS ACCOUNTS, 200 STUDENTS BLOCKADED THE ENTRANCE DOOR TO THE UNIVERSITY BUILDING AND DEMANDED THAT THE MEETING PARTICIPANTS LEAVE THE UNIVERSITY. AFTER AN HOUR'S NEGOTIATION, THE MEETING'S ORGANIZERS YIELDED TO THE DEMAND. A SPOKESMAN FOR AGARD STATED THAT THE MEETING WOULD CONTINUE SOMEWHERE ELSE IN NORTHERN JUTLAND.

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3. FINALLY, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, EXTENSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THREE CITIES WILL BE HELD APRIL 18 TO PROTEST THE NATO NPG MEETING AND THE NEUTRON BOMB. ORGANIZED BY THE "COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY", THE DEMONSTRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN COPENHAGEN, AARHUS AND FREDERIKSHAVN. THE COMMUNIST PAPER, LAND OG FOLK, REPORTS TODAY THAT THE SAME COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MASS MEETING APRIL 15 IN AALBORG TO PLAN THE DEMONSTRATIONS. INVITED TO THE PLANNING MEETING ARE REPRESENTATIVES FOR DANISH TRADE UNIONS AS WELL AS SUCH EUROPEAN "PEACE MOVEMENT LEADERS" AS BRITISH PHYSICIST DR. ERIC BURHOP, DR. WILHELM BREUER FROM WEST GERMANY AND UNNAMED LEADERS OF THE DUTCH ANTI-NEUTRON BOMB MOVEMENT.

4. COMMENT: AS IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT DANISH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE PREDOMINANTLY LEFTIST-ORIENTED, PARTICULARLY THOSE AT AALBORG UNIVERSITY, THE CHOICE OF AALBORG AS MEETING SITE FOR THIS NATO-RELATED ORGANIZATION IS SOMEWHAT PUZZELING. DANISH OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR THE NATO NPG MEETING CONTINUE TO ASSURE US THAT ALL POSSIBLE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN. SIZEABLE DEMONSTRATIONS CAN, HOWEVER, BE EXPECTED WHICH WILL BE PUBLICIZED IN THE DANISH, AND PROBABLY

THE INTERNATIONAL, PRESS. DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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